IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for processing information, connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, comprising:

a storage unit for storing first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and second position information representing an initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus;

a receiver unit for receiving data from said another information processing apparatus;

an acquisition unit for acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a first determining unit for determining whether the third position information acquired by said acquisition unit corresponds to the first position information stored in said storage unit; and

an authenticator unit for authenticating the data received by said receiver unit, based on [[a]] result of the determination of the first position information provided by said first determining unit.

2.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reader unit for reading fourth position information of said information processing apparatus, forming a destination address, and fifth position information of said another information processing apparatus, forming a source address, contained in the data received by the said receiver unit, when the result of determination provided by said first determining unit indicates that the third position information fails to correspond to the first position information; and

a second determining unit for determining whether the fifth position information read by said reader unit corresponds to the second position information stored in said storage unit.

3.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a substituting unit for substituting the first position information for the fourth position information when the result of determination provided by said first determining unit indicates that the third position information fails to correspond to the first position information.

4.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a substituting unit for substituting the second position information for the fifth position information when the result of determination provided by said second determining unit indicates that the fifth position information fails to correspond to the second position information.

5.   (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the fourth position information is assigned to a portion of the most significant bits of the destination address.

6.   (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the fifth position information is assigned to a portion of the most significant bits of the source address.

7.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said authenticator unit uses the first and second position information to authenticate the data received by said receiver unit.

8.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a notifying unit for notifying an information storage device connected to said network of the fourth position information representing the current position of said information processing apparatus, and identification information identifying said information processing apparatus, when said information processing apparatus is connected to another network.

9.   (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said identification information is a terminal identifier identifying said information processing apparatus over said network.

10.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reset unit for resetting the first and second position information stored in said storage unit when communication with said another information processing apparatus is disconnected.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing information, for an information processing apparatus that is connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, said method comprising:

a step of controlling storage of first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and of second position information representing an initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus;

a step of receiving data from said another information processing apparatus;

a step of acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a step of determining whether the third position information acquired in said acquisition step corresponds to the first position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step; and

a step of authenticating the data received in said receiving step, based on [[a]] result of the determination of the first position information provided in said determining step.

12.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a computer-readable software program for controlling an information processing apparatus that is connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, said software program comprising program codes for:

a step of controlling storage of first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and of second position information representing an

initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus;

a step of receiving data from said another information processing apparatus;

a step of acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a step of determining whether the third position information acquired in said acquisition step corresponds to the first position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step; and

a step of authenticating the data received in said receiving step, based on [[a]] ~~result of~~ the determination <u>of the first position information</u> provided in said determining step.

13. (Currently Amended) A software program executed by a computer that is connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, said software program comprising program codes for:

a step of controlling storage of first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and of second position information representing an initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus; a step of receiving data from said another information processing apparatus;

a step of acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a step of determining whether the third position information acquired in said acquisition step corresponds to the first position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step; and

a step of authenticating the data received in said receiving step, based [[a]] ~~result of~~ the determination <u>of the first position information</u> provided in said determining step.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing information, connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, comprising:

a storage unit for storing first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and second position information representing an initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus;

a first acquisition unit for acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a first determining unit for determining whether the third position information acquired by said first acquisition unit corresponds to the first position information stored in said storage unit;

a second acquisition unit for acquiring fourth position information representing a current position of said another information processing apparatus;

a second determining unit for determining whether the fourth position information acquired by said second acquisition unit corresponds to the second position information stored in said storage unit; and

a transmitter unit for transmitting data to said another information processing apparatus, based on [[a]] results of the determination of the first position information provided by said first and second determining unit.

15.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a substituting unit for substituting the first position information for the third position information when the result of determination provided by said first determining unit indicates that the third position information fails to correspond to the first position information.

16.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a substituting unit for substituting the second position information for the fourth position information when the result of determination provided by said second determining unit indicates that the fourth position information fails to correspond to the second position information.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

a calculating unit for calculating additional information, to be added to the data, from the first and second position information stored in said storage unit; and

an adding unit for adding said additional information calculated by said calculating unit to the data,

wherein said transmitter unit sets, at a source address, the third position information acquired by said first acquisition unit, sets, at a destination address, the fourth position information acquired by said second acquisition unit, and transmits the data to which the additional data has been added by said adding unit.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the third position information is assigned to a portion of the most significant bits of the destination address.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the fourth position information is assigned to a portion of the most significant bits of the source address.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a notifying unit for notifying an information storage device connected to said network of the fifth position information representing the current position of said information processing apparatus, and identification information identifying said information processing apparatus, when said information processing apparatus is connected to another network.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said identification information is a terminal identifier identifying said information processing apparatus over said network.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a reset unit for resetting the first and second position information stored in said storage unit when communication with said another information processing apparatus is disconnected.

23.   (Original) A method for processing information, for an information processing apparatus connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, said method comprising:

a step of controlling storage of first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and of second position information representing an initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus;

a first acquisition step of acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a first determining step of determining whether the third position information acquired in said first acquisition step corresponds to the first position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step;

a second acquisition step of acquiring fourth position information representing a current position of said another information processing apparatus;

a second determining step of determining whether the fourth position information acquired in said second acquisition step corresponds to the second position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step; and

a transmitting step of transmitting data to said another information processing apparatus, based on results of determination provided in said first and second determining steps.

24.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a computer-readable software program for controlling an information processing apparatus connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, said computer-readable software program comprising program codes for:

a step of controlling storage of first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and of second position information representing an initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus;

a first acquisition step of acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a first determining step of determining whether the third position information acquired in said first acquisition step corresponds to the first position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step;

a second acquisition step of acquiring fourth position information representing a current position of said another information processing apparatus;

a second determining step of determining whether the fourth position information acquired in said second acquisition step corresponds to the second position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step; and

a transmitting step of transmitting data to said another information processing apparatus, based on [[a]] ~~results of~~ the determination of the first position information and the second position information determination provided in said first and second determining steps, respectively.

25.   (Currently Amended) A software program executed by a computer connected to another information processing apparatus through a network, said software program comprising program codes for:

a step of controlling storage of first position information representing an initial position of said information processing apparatus, and of second position information representing an initial position of said another information processing apparatus when communication is established with said another information processing apparatus;

a first acquisition step of acquiring third position information representing a current position of said information processing apparatus;

a first determining step of determining whether the third position information acquired in said first acquisition step corresponds to the first position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step;

a second acquisition step of acquiring fourth position information representing a current position of said another information processing apparatus;

a second determining step of determining whether the fourth position information acquired in said second acquisition step corresponds to the second position information, storage of which is controlled in said controlling step; and

a transmitting step of transmitting data to said another information processing apparatus, based on [[a]] ~~results of~~ the determination of the first position information and the second position information determination provided in said first and second determining steps, respectively.